

propagate manufacturing of bio-fertilizer, the KVIC have initiated action to identify pilot centres to provide facilities for demonstration, training, testing, etc. Moreover, under its Margin Money Scheme, the KVIC provides margin money to set up Khadi and Village industry units in rural areas including bio-fertilizer manufacturing units.

(c) Since the bio-fertilizer project is still in the initial stages, no estimates on the amount of foreign exchange, which can be saved, can be made.

National Plan for Rural Industries

†4543. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any national plan for rural industries;

(b) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has suggested some remedial measures for the said programme; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided that the programme of all the different agencies should converge at a particular point so as to further synergise the efforts. For brand promotion, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched two brands, namely, 'Khadi' and 'Sarvodaya' for the Khadi and Village Industries Products.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.